Skip to Content
Access through your library
English
Language English
Cancel Apply

Gale Academic OneFile

- Basic Search
  Search... Submit
- **Advanced Search**

- Cite
- Send to...
- Download
- Print
- Get Link
- Highlights and Notes

Your session has timed out after 20 minutes of inactivity. If you do not click continue session, you will be logged out in 60 seconds

Restored wetlands flunk real-world test

Author: David Malakoff
Date: Apr. 17, 1998
From: Science(Vol. 280, Issue 5362)
Publisher: American Association for the Advancement of Science
Document Type: Brief article
Length: 1,100 words

Article Preview :

Vinelad, New Jersey -- To the untrained eye, a roadside salt marsh 8 kilometers south of downtown San Diego may look like any other urban wetland: a lush carpet of tall grass teeming with fish and birds. In fact, the 12-hectare plot in the Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge is a kind of ecological counterfeit, created in 1985 to replace natural wetlands destroyed by construction projects. But restoration ecologists were unable to fool Nature. After intense scientific scrutiny, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) officials last January determined that the ersatz marsh has failed to attract light-footed clapper rails -- an endangered bird for which it was supposed to provide habitat -- and ordered the owner of the land, the California transportation department (Caltrans), to undertake further restoration work. "It was a mistake to assumes that a constructed wetland would become equivalent to a natural system," says ecologist Joy Zedler of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, whose 10-year study of the Sweetwater marsh led to FWS's ruling.

Setbacks at Sweetwater and many other sites came under the spotlight last week at a tidal wetlands meeting(*) here that questioned the assumptions now driving a wetlands restoration boom in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that since 1982, restoration and creation projects have added more than 400,000 hectares of fresh- and saltwater wetlands to the nation's inventory. And last February, the Clinton Administration unveiled a clean-water initiative that calls for government agencies to aid efforts to create 80,000 hectares of new wetlands each year over the next decade. The plan says new marshes should be "functionally equivalent" to natural systems, meaning they should be as...

Get Full Access
Gale offers a variety of resources for education, lifelong learning, and academic research. Log in through your library to get access to full content and features!
Access through your library

Copyright: COPYRIGHT 1998 American Association for the Advancement of Science
http://www.sciencemag.org/

Source Citation

MLA 9th Edition APA 7th Edition Chicago 17th Edition Harvard

Malakoff, David. "Restored wetlands flunk real-world test." *Science*, vol. 280, no. 5362, 17 Apr. 1998, pp. 371+. *Gale Academic OneFile*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A20552706/AONE?u=anon~76e5875c&sid=googleScholar&xid=1257e9c5. Accessed 1 Dec. 2025.

Disclaimer

Select

Export To:

NoodleTools EasyBib RefWorks Download RIS*

*The RIS file format can be used with EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, and Zotero.

Gale Document Number: GALEIA20552706

Report an Issue

If you are experiencing a technical issue, please send your email and name so that we can resolve the issue faster.

Name*

Email*

Additional Comments(Optional)

I already have a ticket number

Ticket Number

Cancel Submit

Submitted diagnostic report

Diagnostic report submitted.

Ok

Timestamp: December 1, 2025 at 11:01:12 PM UTC

Ticket Number:

Reporter's Email:

Reporter's Name:

Comments:

URL:

Product Id	AONE
Location Id	anon~76e5875c
Session Id	AONE-openaccess_user-D736F21556A0A44E7BA8F2FFA13A0EA8.omni_202_99_222-1044791-googleScholar
CrossSearch Products	AONE
Browser	
UserAgent	
UI Language	en (ltr)
Is Shibboleth Eligible	false
Shibboleth AuthEnabled	false
Shibboleth GUID	false

Stacktrace

Log in through your library to access this feature

Log in through your library to access this feature